

THOMAS about the legislative calendar, or I might be able to talk to other Members of the Senate Republican caucus, but I prefer to deal with the majority leader. I think we ought to see the reciprocal here. I have not had a chance to see it or check with my colleagues. Until that happens, nothing is going to get done on this side.

Mr. LOTT. As I indicated earlier, I will be glad to try this again later on today once you have a chance to talk to your colleagues. I will be glad to come back to this at 4, 5, 6 o'clock, so we can deal with this issue. I know there are Senators interested in it on both sides. So I will put you on notice, I have tried to bring it up. I will try it again later. If we do not get it today, I will try it again tomorrow.

At some point, I want to say this, if the objection continues to be heard that would bring it up under unanimous consent, then I will want to schedule time for it and move to bring it up, have some debate. I am willing to do that, too. I am just trying to find a way to get some of these things up and get them considered.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, we might want to bring it up under regular order. I am told, just now, we may have amendments to the legislation. So that might be the most appropriate vehicle.

Mr. LOTT. I might say, if there are going to be a lot of amendments to what I thought was going to be relatively noncontroversial, that will affect when it comes up, because we do have appropriations bills that take priority over everything else.

#### UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 2980

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate turn to Calendar No. 421, H.R. 2980, a bill relating to stalking, and the bill be then read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the measure appear at this point in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DASCHLE. Because we have amendments pending, we are not prepared at this point to agree to this unanimous consent as well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

#### RECESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent the Senate stand in recess until the hour of 4 p.m.

There being no objection, at 2:27 p.m., the Senate recessed until 4 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer [Mr. SANTORUM].

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### SENATOR MURRAY AND THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I rise to make a statement on behalf of my colleague from Washington, Senator MURRAY. Senator MURRAY is unable to attend today's session of the Senate, because she has been called away to participate in very important national business. She is charting the course of Democratic priorities for the balance of this century, and into the next, as part of a distinguished group of 16 Americans meeting today to write the National Democratic platform on which the President and all of us will run this fall.

As a person who came to public service as an outsider, with a message of commonsense middle class values, Senator MURRAY is uniquely qualified to make sure the 1996 National Democratic Platform reflects the hopes and dreams and concerns of all Americans. Her priority is making modern Government policies relevant to families in particular, including workers, young parents, senior citizens, and all people looking to work hard, get ahead, and live the American dream. I speak for all my colleagues on this side in saying that we are grateful for her leadership, and we take comfort in knowing she is bringing an important personal touch to our national agenda.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The clerk will continue to call the roll.

The legislative clerk continued to call the roll.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECESS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I move that the Senate stand in recess until 6 p.m. this evening.

The motion was agreed to, and at 5:17 p.m., the Senate recessed until 6 p.m.;

whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer [Mr. BENNETT].

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I had hoped that we could come to some agreement with regard to these numerous matters that we had taken up, but it does not look like that is going to be possible; therefore, I intend to ask unanimous consent again on a number of items.

There has been a concerted effort on behalf of the chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Senator MURKOWSKI, and the Senator from Idaho, Senator CRAIG, and the Senators from Nevada to see if an agreement could be reached.

I thought we had one that was time-consuming but fair to all concerned, but at the last minute it appears that that is not possible after an effort to get an agreement that would have allowed the nuclear waste issue to be brought up later on in July. I think the 23d, for limited debate, a vote on cloture, then bringing it back up after the August recess, the first day we are back, with a vote and then 30 hours of debate, and then a vote on final passage, and then go to conference.

That is an awful lot of time when the Senate has limited time to do its work, but it is a way to allow the Senators from Nevada to make their point and to get this issue resolved. But then we find, no; they want to reserve the ability to add three more hurdles to filibuster and get votes on going to conference. That was a river too far. There is a limit to what we can do in terms of agreeing to what is obviously just, you know, a dilatory agreement. So it was not acceptable in that condition.

We will be in session tomorrow. Hopefully we can make some progress then. If not, we will go next Tuesday to the cloture vote. But it does gridlock the Senate. The inability to get this agreement between the key players ties up the Department of Defense appropriations bill and ties up everything else that is pending around here. I think that is really unfortunate because we need to get the agreement on these issues if at all possible.

Perhaps there has been some positive result of our discussions earlier today. At least now I do have something in writing with regard to the medical savings accounts. I just received it within the last 15 minutes. I will take a serious look at it and discuss it with the key Senators involved on the Republican side in the House and Senate. We need to get this done.

I still find it indefensible that we have not appointed conferees on health insurance reform for 80 days. I have the conferees. It is a fair division. Even if we get an agreement on the medical savings accounts, we still are going to need a conference to agree on the final